DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 482 258 EA 032 873

AUTHOR	Egan, Kieran
TITLE	Getting It Wrong from the Beginning: Our Progressivist Inheritance from Herbert Spencer, John Dewey, and Jean Piaget.
ISBN	ISBN-0-300-09433-7
PUB DATE	2002-08-00
NOTE	204p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Yale University Press, P.O. Box 209040, New Haven, CT 06520-9040 ($26). Tel: 203-432-0960; Fax: 203-432-0948; Web site: http://www.yale.edu/ yup/.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Opinion Papers (120)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Curriculum Development; *Educational History; *Educational Methods; *Educational Philosophy; Educational Practices; Educational Theories; Elementary Secondary Education; Humanistic Education; Individual Development; Learning Theories; *Progressive Education
IDENTIFIERS	Dewey (John); Piaget (Jean); Spencer (Herbert)

ABSTRACT

This book sets out to prove that the progressivist tenets that have become the foundation of American education are mistaken. The author does not argue against progressivism on the basis of the usual alternatives of liberal or traditional theories of education because it is not adequately attuned to preparing students for jobs. The author sets out to expose the flaw in the most widely held beliefs among educators today. To further her argument, the author discusses the works and influences of Herbert Spencer (1820-1903), Jean Piaget (1896-1980), and John Dewey (1859-1952). However, this book is not be construed as biography or history; it is a platform to further an alternative view of how to better educate children in the modern world. Chapter 1 outlines some of the basic ideas of progressivism, showing their early expression in the work of Spencer. Chapters 2 through 4 examine ideas about learning, development, and the curriculum. In chapter 5, the author argues that much modern educational research is flawed by presuppositions related to those the author identifies in progressivism. Throughout the book, the author indicates the direction educators need to move in to get beyond the pervasive flaw of progressivism. (WFA)

Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made
from the original document.